



REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

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PAST ISSUES CAN BE FOUND AT:

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RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

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HF 64 BECOMES LAW

On Monday, the first piece of disaster-related legislation to help communities and individuals recover from the devastating storms, tornadoes and flooding of 2008 was signed into law. The Legislature approved HF 64 unanimously in both chambers—98-0 in the Iowa House and 49-0 in the Iowa Senate. The legislation allocates \$56 million from the state's reserve accounts for additional Jumpstart Housing assistance, Community Disaster Grants and unmet needs. The

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Governor Culver signs HF 64, the "Rebuild Iowa Disaster Recovery Bill" on Monday in the Capitol Rotunda.

REBUILD IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL A SUCCESS

Monday's Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol offered legislators the chance to meet with

federal, state and community partners active in Iowa's disaster recovery. Impacted

Iowans from cities across the state were present to detail the rebuilding process in their communities. Representatives from state and federal agencies were on hand to answer questions about the roles they play in the statewide recovery effort. Agencies represented included the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Iowa Dept. of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Dept. of Elder Affairs, Iowa Dept. of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FEMA's ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery, Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), Iowa Homeland Security (HSEMD), USDA and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD).



Federal, state and local partners in Iowa's recovery efforts were on hand Monday for Rebuild Iowa Day at the Capitol.

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE SERVICES

Since the Rebuild Iowa Office's creation on June 27, 2008, it has been focused on the response to and recovery from the devastating storms, floods, and tornadoes of 2008. To help the state work towards a full recovery, the Rebuild Iowa Office is engaged in many diverse activities.

RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team (CaRRP) has been working with some of the hardest hit disaster-affected communities across Iowa to help each individual community develop its own unique recovery and rebuilding plan. CaRRP is also working to extend their expertise to other communities impacted by last summer's disasters.

RIO's Disaster Recovery

Case Management Coordination team has been working with voluntary agencies and faith-based groups active in helping Iowa communities recover from the disasters. Their work with more than 20 local Long-Term Recovery Committees across the state helps to place Iowans struggling to recover in contact with case workers who will help them navigate the steps to a successful recovery.

The RIO Communications team keeps Iowans informed of the latest disaster recovery information and programs by the following:

- Working with media outlets across the state to ensure an accurate message

reaches impacted Iowans.

- Managing the RIO Web site which houses a wealth of information for those interested in Iowa's recovery process.
- Facilitating discussion between agencies involved in the recovery efforts to encourage cooperation and communication toward a holistic approach to recovery.
- Handling disaster- and recovery-related calls, e-mails and other inquiries from the public.

The RIO also staffs specialists focusing on economic, environmental, housing and infrastructure recovery issues.



FACTS:

**NEARLY 40,000
IOWANS APPLIED
FOR FEMA
ASSISTANCE**

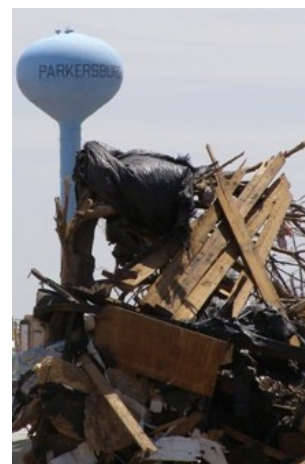
**THE OFFICIAL
DISASTER
"INCIDENT
PERIOD" LASTED
81 DAYS
(MAY 25-AUG.13)**

SF 44 SIGNED FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

On Monday, Governor Culver signed Senate File 44. This legislation allows counties that were declared presidential disaster areas the ability to move up special election dates to seek a one-cent increase in the local option sales tax. Residents could vote as soon as March, with collection of the revenue

beginning as soon as April 1; the current law would have begun revenue collection on January 1. In addition, if the local option fails in a community where it is approved county-wide, the community will not receive the additional sales tax revenue. The legislation is designed to provide communities

impacted by last summer's storms the opportunity to decide locally whether to use the option of additional sales tax revenue to assist with disaster recovery. This law only applies to communities that do not already have a 7% sales tax.



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legislation also formally establishes the Rebuild

Iowa Office (RIO) in Iowa Code. As always, the RIO remains focused on continuing to address the

needs of communities and the public and will continue the state's efforts toward recovery.